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| CAUSE NO                   | . C-2047-1 | 17-F                     |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| JESUS CEDILLO AND PATRICIA | §          | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
| CEDILLO,                   | §          |                          |
| Plaintiffs,                | §          |                          |
|                            | §          |                          |
| <b>v.</b>                  | §          | HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS    |
|                            | §          |                          |
| ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND       | §          |                          |
| PROPERTY INSURANCE         | §          |                          |
| COMPANY, STEVEN YODER, AND | §          |                          |
| JOSHUA ODEN,               | §          |                          |
| Defendants.                | §          | JUDICIAL DISTRICT        |

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### PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COME NOW, Jesus Cedillo and Patricia Cedillo ("Plaintiffs") and file this, *Plaintiffs'*Original Petition, complaining of Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company ("Allstate"),

Steven Yoder ("Yoder"), and Joshua Oden ("Oden") (hereinafter collectively referred to as

"Defendants"), and for cause of action, Plaintiffs would respectfully show this Honorable Court
the following:

### **DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN**

1. Plaintiffs intend for discovery to be conducted under Level 3 of Rule 190 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. This case involves complex issues and will require extensive discovery. Therefore, Plaintiffs will ask the Court to order that discovery be conducted in accordance with a discovery control plan tailored to the particular circumstances of this suit.

### **PARTIES**

2. Plaintiffs Jesus Cedillo and Patricia Cedillo are individuals residing in Hidalgo County,

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Texas.

- 3. Defendant Allstate is a foreign insurance company engaging in the business of insurance in the State of Texas. This defendant may be served with personal process, by a process server, by serving its Attorney for Service: C T Corporation System, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dallas, Texas 75201.
- 4. Defendant Steven Yoder is an individual residing in and domiciled in the State of Texas.

  This defendant may be served with personal process by a process server at his place of residence at 22136 Westheimer Parkway, Apt. 309, Katy, Texas 77450.
- 5. Defendant Joshua Oden is an individual residing in and domiciled in the State of Alabama. This defendant may be served with personal process by a process server at his place of residence at 9650 Scenic Hills Drive, Semmes, Alabama 36575.

### **JURISDICTION**

- 6. The Court has jurisdiction over this cause of action because the amount in controversy is within the jurisdictional limits of the Court. Plaintiffs are seeking monetary relief over \$100,000 but not more than \$200,000. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend their petition during and/or after the discovery process.
- 7. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendant Allstate because this defendant is a foreign insurance company that engages in the business of insurance in the State of Texas, and Plaintiffs' causes of action arise out of this defendant's business activities in the State of Texas.
- 8. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendant Yoder because this defendant engages in the business of adjusting insurance claims in the State of Texas, and Plaintiffs' causes of action arise out of this defendant's business activities in the State of Texas.

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9. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendant Oden because this defendant engages in the business of adjusting insurance claims in the State of Texas, and Plaintiffs' causes of action arise out of this defendant's business activities in the State of Texas.

### **VENUE**

10. Venue is proper in Hidalgo County, Texas, because the insured property is situated in Hidalgo County, Texas. TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE §15.032.

### **FACTS**

- 11. Plaintiffs are the owners of a Texas Homeowners' Insurance Policy (hereinafter referred to as "the Policy"), which was issued by Allstate.
- 12. Plaintiffs own the insured property, which is specifically located at 2109 Datil Street, Hidalgo, Texas 78557, in Hidalgo County (hereinafter referred to as "the Property").
- 13. Allstate sold the Policy insuring the Property to Plaintiffs.
- 14. On or about May 31, 2016, and into the morning of June 1, 2016, a hail storm and/or windstorm struck Hidalgo County, Texas, causing severe damage to homes and businesses throughout the area, including Plaintiffs' residence (hereinafter referred to as "the Storm"). Specifically, Plaintiffs' roof sustained extensive damage during the Storm. Plaintiffs also sustained additional structural and exterior damage during the Storm including, but not limited to, the exterior walls, gutters, and several windows. Water intrusion through the roof caused significant damage throughout the entire home including, but not limited to, the home's ceilings, walls, insulation, and flooring. Furthermore, Plaintiffs sustained significant damage to their fence on the Property, and additionally, lost food. Shortly after the Storm, Plaintiffs filed a claim with their insurance company, Allstate, for the damages to their home caused by the hail storm

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and/or windstorm.

- 15. Plaintiffs submitted a claim to Allstate against the Policy for Contents Damage, Other Structure Damage, Roof Damage, Structural Damage, Water Damage, and Wind Damage the Property sustained as a result of the hail storm and/or windstorm.
- 16. Plaintiffs asked that Allstate cover the cost of repairs to the Property, including but not limited to, repair and/or replacement of the roof and repair of the exterior, structural, and/or interior water damages to the Property, pursuant to the Policy.
- 17. Defendant Allstate assigned Defendants Yoder and Oden as the individual adjusters on the claim. The adjusters assigned to Plaintiffs' claim were improperly trained and failed to perform a thorough investigation of Plaintiffs' claim. Without requiring written notice, on or about June 5, 2016, Yoder conducted a substandard inspection of Plaintiffs' residence during which he spent thirty (30) minutes, an insufficient amount of time, inspecting the entire Property to scope damages and failed to thoroughly inspect all of the damages both to the interior and exterior of the home. For example, Yoder failed to conduct a thorough inspection to the entire interior of the home including, but not limited to, the living room and at least three (3) bedrooms; thus denying many of the properly covered Storm damages to the Property. Additionally, Yoder failed to inspect for damages in Plaintiffs' attic. Defendant Yoder's inadequate inspection is evidenced by his June 6, 2016, report, which failed to provide a fair and accurate assessment of Plaintiffs' damages included in his inspection. Specifically, Yoder incorrectly applied material sales tax for certain items in determining the actual cash value of Plaintiffs' loss under the Policy. Yoder also failed to adequately allow an allotment for overhead and profit. Furthermore, Plaintiffs' lost food was not included in Yoder's estimate. Ultimately,

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Defendant Yoder failed to properly scope Plaintiffs' damages, underestimated and undervalued the cost of repairs to the damaged items, thereby not allowing adequate funds to cover the cost of repairs to all the damages sustained. The mishandling of Plaintiffs' claim has also caused a delay in Plaintiffs' ability to fully repair their Property, which has resulted in additional damages. To this date, Plaintiffs have yet to receive the full payment they are entitled to under the Policy.

- 18. Oden also actively participated in the handling of Plaintiffs' claim but failed to conduct a reasonable investigation. Specifically, he corresponded with Plaintiffs regarding their claim in letters and/or reviewed reports, documents, and information regarding the claim. Ultimately, Defendant Oden failed to thoroughly review Defendant Yoder's assessment of the claim and ultimately approved and/or submitted an inaccurate report of the damages.
- 19. Defendant Allstate, along with its personnel, failed to adequately supervise, oversee, and review the work of the adjusters assigned to Plaintiffs' claim, including Defendants Yoder and Oden. Had Allstate performed even a cursory review of the estimate(s)/report(s) submitted and approved by Yoder and Oden, Defendant Allstate would have discovered that Plaintiffs' claim was improperly adjusted. Unfortunately for Plaintiffs, this did not happen.
- 20. Together, Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden set out to deny and/or underpay on properly covered damages. As a result of this unreasonable investigation, including the under-scoping of Plaintiffs' Storm damages during the investigation and failure to provide full coverage for the damages sustained, Plaintiffs' claim was improperly adjusted, and they were denied adequate and sufficient payment to repair their home.

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The mishandling of Plaintiffs' claim has also caused a delay in their ability to fully repair their home, which has resulted in additional damages. To date, Plaintiffs have yet to receive the full payment to which they are entitled under the Policy.

- 21. As detailed in the paragraphs below, Allstate wrongfully denied Plaintiffs' claim for repairs of the Property, even though the Policy provided coverage for losses such as those suffered by Plaintiffs. Furthermore, Allstate underpaid some of Plaintiffs' claims by not providing full coverage for the damages sustained by Plaintiffs, as well as under-scoping the damages during its investigation.
- 22. To date, Allstate continues to delay in the payment for the damages to the property. As such, Plaintiffs have not been paid in full for the damages to their home.
- 23. Defendant Allstate failed to perform its contractual duties to adequately compensate Plaintiffs under the terms of the Policy. Specifically, it refused to pay the full proceeds of the Policy, although due demand was made for proceeds to be paid in an amount sufficient to cover the damaged property, and all conditions precedent to recovery upon the Policy had been carried out and accomplished by Plaintiffs. Allstate's conduct constitutes a breach of the insurance contract between Allstate and Plaintiffs.
- 24. Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden misrepresented to Plaintiffs that the damage to the Property was not covered under the Policy, even though the damage was caused by a covered occurrence. Defendants Allstate's, Yoder's, and Oden's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(1).
- 25. Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden failed to make an attempt to settle Plaintiffs' claim in a fair manner, although they were aware of their liability to Plaintiffs under the Policy.

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Defendants Allstate's, Yoder's, and Oden's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(2)(A).

- Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden failed to explain to Plaintiffs the reasons for their offer of an inadequate settlement. Specifically, Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden failed to offer Plaintiffs adequate compensation, without any explanation why full payment was not being made. Furthermore, Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden did not communicate that any future settlements or payments would be forthcoming to pay for the entire losses covered under the Policy, nor did they provide any explanation for the failure to adequately settle Plaintiffs' claim. Defendants Allstate's, Yoder's, and Oden's conduct is a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(3).
- 27. Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden failed to affirm or deny coverage of Plaintiffs' claim within a reasonable time. Specifically, Plaintiffs did not receive timely indication of acceptance or rejection, regarding the full and entire claim, in writing from Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden. Defendants Allstate's, Yoder's, and Oden's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex. INS. Code §541.060(a)(4).
- 28. Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden refused to fully compensate Plaintiffs, under the terms of the Policy, even though Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden failed to conduct a reasonable investigation. Specifically, Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden performed an outcome-oriented investigation of Plaintiffs' claim, which resulted in a biased, unfair, and inequitable evaluation of Plaintiffs' losses on the Property. Defendants Allstate's, Yoder's, and Oden's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas

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Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(7).

- 29. Defendant Allstate failed to meet its obligations under the Texas Insurance Code regarding timely acknowledging Plaintiffs' claim, beginning an investigation of Plaintiffs' claim, and requesting all information reasonably necessary to investigate Plaintiffs' claim, within the statutorily mandated time of receiving notice of Plaintiffs' claim. Allstate's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. Tex. Ins. Code §542.055.
- 30. Defendant Allstate failed to accept or deny Plaintiffs' full and entire claim within the statutorily mandated time of receiving all necessary information. Allstate's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. Tex. Ins. Code §542.056.
- 31. Defendant Allstate failed to meet its obligations under the Texas Insurance Code regarding payment of claim without delay. Specifically, it has delayed full payment of Plaintiffs' claim longer than allowed and, to date, Plaintiffs have not received full payment for their claim. Allstate's conduct constitutes a violation of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. Tex. Ins. Code §542.058.
- 32. From and after the time Plaintiffs' claim was presented to Defendant Allstate, the liability of Allstate to pay the full claim in accordance with the terms of the Policy was reasonably clear. However, Allstate has refused to pay Plaintiffs in full, despite there being no basis whatsoever on which a reasonable insurance company would have relied to deny the full payment. Allstate's conduct constitutes a breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- 33. Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden knowingly or recklessly made false

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representations, as described above, as to material facts and/or knowingly concealed all or part of material information from Plaintiffs.

- 34. As a result of Defendants Allstate's, Yoder's, and Oden's wrongful acts and omissions, Plaintiffs were forced to retain the professional services of the attorney and law firm who are representing them with respect to these causes of action.
- 35. Plaintiffs' experience is not an isolated case. The acts and omissions Allstate committed in this case, or similar acts and omissions, occur with such frequency that they constitute a general business practice of Allstate with regard to handling these types of claims. Allstate's entire process is unfairly designed to reach favorable outcomes for the company at the expense of the policyholders.

### **CAUSES OF ACTION:**

### **CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS YODER AND ODEN**

# NONCOMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS INSURANCE CODE: UNFAIR SETTLEMENT PRACTICES

- 36. Defendant Allstate assigned Defendants Yoder and Oden to adjust the claim. Defendants Yoder and Oden were improperly trained to handle claims of this nature and performed an unreasonable investigation of Plaintiffs' damages. During their investigation, the adjusters failed to properly assess Plaintiffs' hail storm and/or windstorm damages. The adjusters also omitted covered damages from their reports, including many of Plaintiffs' interior damages. In addition, the damages that the adjusters did include in the estimate were severely underestimated.
- 37. Defendants Yoder's and Oden's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. TEX. INS. CODE §541.060(a). All violations under this article are made actionable by TEX. INS. CODE §541.151.

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- 38. Defendants Yoder and Oden are each individually liable for their unfair and deceptive acts, irrespective of the fact each was acting on behalf of Allstate, because each is a "person" as defined by Tex. Ins. Code §541.002(2). The term "person" is defined as "any individual, corporation, association, partnership, reciprocal or interinsurance exchange, Lloyds plan, fraternal benefit society, or other legal entity engaged in the business of insurance, including an agent, broker, *adjuster* or life and health insurance counselor." Tex. Ins. Code §541.002(2) (emphasis added; *see also Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. Garrison Contractors, Inc.*, 966 S.W.2d 482, 484 (Tex. 1998)) (holding an insurance company employee to be a "person" for the purpose of bringing a cause of action against him or her under the Texas Insurance Code and subjecting him or her to individual liability).
- 39. Falsehoods and misrepresentations may be communicated by actions as well as by the spoken word; therefore, deceptive conduct is equivalent to a verbal representation. Defendants' misrepresentations by means of deceptive conduct include, but are not limited to: (1) failing to conduct a reasonable inspection and investigation of Plaintiffs' damages; (2) stating that Plaintiffs' damages were less severe than they in fact were; (3) using their own statements about the non-severity of the damage as a basis for denying properly covered damages and/or underpaying damages; and (4) failing to provide an adequate explanation for the inadequate compensation Plaintiffs received. Defendants Yoder's and Oden's unfair settlement practice, as described above and the example given herein, of misrepresenting to Plaintiffs material facts relating to the coverage at issue, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(1).

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- 40. Defendants Yoder's and Oden's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of failing to attempt in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of the claim, even though liability under the Policy is reasonably clear, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(2)(A).
- 41. Defendants Yoder and Oden failed to explain to Plaintiffs the reasons for their offer of an inadequate settlement. Specifically, Defendants Yoder and Oden failed to offer Plaintiffs adequate compensation without any explanation as to why full payment was not being made. Furthermore, Defendants did not communicate that any future settlements or payments would be forthcoming to pay for the entire losses covered under the Policy, nor did they provide any explanation for the failure to adequately settle Plaintiffs' claim. The unfair settlement practice of Defendants Yoder and Oden as described above, of failing to promptly provide Plaintiffs with a reasonable explanation of the basis in the Policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for the offer of a compromise settlement of Plaintiffs' claim, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(3).
- 42. Defendants Yoder's and Oden's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of failing within a reasonable time to affirm or deny coverage of the claim to Plaintiffs, or to submit a reservation of rights to Plaintiffs, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code \$541.060(a)(4).
- 43. Defendants Yoder and Oden did not properly inspect the Property and failed to account for and/or undervalued many of Plaintiffs' exterior and interior damages, although

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reported by Plaintiffs to. Allstate Defendants Yoder's and Oden's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of refusing to pay Plaintiffs' claim without conducting a reasonable investigation, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. INS. CODE §541.060(a)(7).

### **CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS**

44. Plaintiffs are not making any claims for relief under federal law.

#### **FRAUD**

- 45. Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden are liable to Plaintiffs for common law fraud.
- 46. Each and every one of the representations, as described above, concerned material facts for the reason that absent such representations, Plaintiffs would not have acted as they did, and which Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden knew were false or made recklessly without any knowledge of their truth as a positive assertion.
- 47. The statements were made with the intention that they should be acted upon by Plaintiffs, who in turn acted in reliance upon the statements, thereby causing Plaintiffs to suffer injury and constituting common law fraud.

#### **CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FRAUD**

48. Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden are liable to Plaintiffs for conspiracy to commit fraud. Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden were members of a combination of two or more persons whose object was to accomplish an unlawful purpose or a lawful purpose by unlawful means. In reaching a meeting of the minds regarding the course of action to be taken against Plaintiffs, Defendants Allstate, Yoder, and Oden committed an unlawful, overt act to further the object or course of action. Plaintiffs suffered injury as a proximate result.

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#### WAIVER

49. While denying that any provision of the policy at issue or any statute, code provision (including the Prompt Payment of Claims Act), or law required Plaintiffs to provide written notice of claim as a condition or requirement to recover damages, penalties, interest or attorneys' fees pursuant to contract or any Texas law (including the Prompt Payment of Claims Act), Plaintiffs hereby assert (separately or in the alternative to the foregoing) that Defendants have waived, or otherwise intentionally relinquished, any right to any written notice of claim from Plaintiffs under the policy at issue or under any applicable law (including but not limited to any provision of the Prompt Payment of Claims Act). Additionally (and, again, separately or in the alternative), Defendants have waived, or otherwise intentionally relinquished, any right to assert that Plaintiffs are barred from recovering damages, penalties, interest or attorneys' fees pursuant to contract, applicable law and otherwise, for lack of written notice under the policy or under any Texas law (including but limited to any provision under the Prompt Payment of Claims Act).

### CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST ALLSTATE ONLY

50. Defendant Allstate is liable to Plaintiffs for intentional breach of contract, as well as intentional violations of the Texas Insurance Code, and intentional breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing.

### **BREACH OF CONTRACT**

- 51. Defendant Allstate's conduct constitutes a breach of the insurance contract made between Allstate and Plaintiffs.
- 52. Defendant Allstate's failure and/or refusal, as described above, to pay the adequate

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compensation as it is obligated to do under the terms of the Policy in question, and under the laws of the State of Texas, constitutes a breach of Allstate's insurance contract with Plaintiffs.

# NONCOMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS INSURANCE CODE: UNFAIR SETTLEMENT PRACTICES

- 53. Defendant Allstate's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a). All violations under this article are made actionable by Tex. Ins. Code §541.151.
- 54. Defendant Allstate's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of misrepresenting to Plaintiffs material facts relating to the coverage at issue, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(1).
- 55. Defendant Allstate's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of failing to attempt in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of the claim, even though Allstate's liability under the Policy was reasonably clear, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(2)(A).
- Defendant Allstate's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of failing to promptly provide Plaintiffs with a reasonable explanation of the basis in the Policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for its offer of a compromise settlement of the claim, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(3).
- 57. Defendant Allstate's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of failing within a reasonable time to affirm or deny coverage of the claim to Plaintiffs, or to submit a

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reservation of rights to Plaintiffs, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX. INS. CODE \$541.060(a)(4).

58. Defendant Allstate's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of refusing to pay Plaintiffs' claim without conducting a reasonable investigation, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code §541.060(a)(7).

### NONCOMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS INSURANCE CODE: THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

- 59. Defendant Allstate's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. All violations made under this article are made actionable by Tex. Ins. Code §542.060.
- 60. Defendant Allstate's failure to acknowledge receipt of Plaintiffs' claim, commence investigation of the claim, and request from Plaintiffs all items, statements, and forms that it reasonably believed would be required within the applicable time constraints, as described above, constitutes a non-prompt payment of claims and a violation of Tex. INS. CODE §542.055.
- 61. Defendant Allstate's failure to notify Plaintiffs in writing of its acceptance or rejection of the claim within the applicable time constraints, constitutes a non-prompt payment of the claim. Tex. Ins. Code §542.056.
- 62. Defendant Allstate's delay of the payment of Plaintiffs' claim following its receipt of all items, statements, and forms reasonably requested and required, longer than the amount of time provided for, as described above, constitutes a non-prompt payment of the claim. Tex. Ins. Code §542.058.

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### ACTS CONSTITUTING ACTING AS AGENT

- 63. As referenced and described above, and further conduct throughout this litigation and lawsuit, Yoder and Oden are agents of Allstate based on their acts during the handling of this claim, including inspections, adjustments, and aiding in adjusting a loss for or on behalf of the insurer. Tex. INS. CODE §4001.051.
- 64. Separately, and/or in the alternative, as referenced and described above, Allstate ratified the actions and conduct of Yoder and Oden including the completion of their duties under the common law and statutory law.

### BREACH OF THE DUTY OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING

- 65. Defendant Allstate's conduct constitutes a breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing owed to insureds in insurance contracts.
- 66. Defendant Allstate's failure, as described above, to adequately and reasonably investigate and evaluate Plaintiffs' claim, although, at that time, Allstate knew or should have known by the exercise of reasonable diligence that its liability was reasonably clear, constitutes a breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing.

### KNOWLEDGE

67. Each of the acts described above, together and singularly, was done "knowingly," as that term is used in the Texas Insurance Code, and was a producing cause of Plaintiffs' damages described herein.

### **DAMAGES**

- 68. Plaintiffs would show that all of the aforementioned acts, taken together or singularly, constitute the producing causes of the damages sustained by Plaintiffs.
- 69. As previously mentioned, the damages caused by the May 31, 2016, continuing into the

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morning of June 1, 2016, hail storm have not been properly addressed or repaired in the months since the Storm, causing further damages to the Property, and causing undue hardship and burden to Plaintiffs. These damages are a direct result of Defendants Allstate's, Yoder's, and Oden's mishandling of Plaintiffs' claim in violation of the laws set forth above.

- 70. For breach of contract, Plaintiffs are entitled to regain the benefit of their bargain, which is the amount of their claim, together with attorney's fees.
- 71. For noncompliance with the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices, Plaintiffs are entitled to actual damages, which include the loss of the benefits that should have been paid pursuant to the policy, mental anguish, court costs, and attorney's fees. For knowing conduct of the acts described above, Plaintiffs ask for three times their actual damages. Tex. Ins. Code §541.152.
- 72. For noncompliance with Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims, Plaintiffs are entitled to the amount of their claim, as well as eighteen (18) percent interest per annum on the amount of such claim as damages, together with attorney's fees. Tex. Ins. Code §542.060.
- 73. For breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing, Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory damages, including all forms of loss resulting from the insurer's breach of duty, such as additional costs, economic hardship, losses due to nonpayment of the amount the insurer owed, exemplary damages, and damages for emotional distress.
- 74. For fraud, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover actual damages and exemplary damages for knowingly fraudulent and malicious representations, along with attorney's fees, interest, and court costs.

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75. For the prosecution and collection of this claim, Plaintiffs have been compelled to engage the services of the attorney whose name is subscribed to this pleading. Therefore, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover a sum for the reasonable and necessary services of Plaintiffs' attorney in the preparation and trial of this action, including any appeals to the Court of Appeals and/or the Supreme Court of Texas.

### **JURY DEMAND**

76. Plaintiffs hereby request that all causes of action alleged herein be tried before a jury consisting of citizens residing in Hidalgo County, Texas. Plaintiffs hereby tender the appropriate jury fee.

### WRITTEN DISCOVERY

### **REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE**

77. Plaintiffs' Request for Disclosure to Defendant Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance

Company is attached as "Exhibit A." Plaintiffs' Request for Disclosure to Defendant

Steven Yoder is attached as "Exhibit A-1." Plaintiffs' Request for Disclosure to

Defendant Joshua Oden is attached as "Exhibit A-2."

### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiffs pray that upon trial hereof, said Plaintiffs have and recover such sums as would reasonably and justly compensate them in accordance with the rules of law and procedure, as to actual damages, treble damages under the Texas Insurance Code, and all punitive and exemplary damages as may be found. In addition, Plaintiffs request the award of attorney's fees for the trial and any appeal of this case, for all costs of Court on their behalf expended, for prejudgment and postjudgment interest as allowed by law, and for any other and further relief, either at law or in equity, to which they may show

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themselves justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

**MOSTYN LAW** 

/s/ René M. Sigman

René M. Sigman State Bar No. 24037492 rmsdocketefile@mostynlaw.com 3810 West Alabama Street Houston, Texas 77027 (713) 714-0000 (Office) (713) 714-1111 (Facsimile)

# "EXHIBIT A"

| CAUSE NO                   |   |                          |  |  |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| JESUS CEDILLO AND PATRICIA | § | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |  |  |
| CEDILLO,                   | § |                          |  |  |
| Plaintiffs,                | § |                          |  |  |
|                            | § |                          |  |  |
| v.                         | § | HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS    |  |  |
|                            | § |                          |  |  |
| ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND       | § |                          |  |  |
| PROPERTY INSURANCE         | § |                          |  |  |
| COMPANY, STEVEN YODER, AND | § |                          |  |  |
| JOSHUA ODEN,               | § |                          |  |  |
| Defendants.                | § | JUDICIAL DISTRICT        |  |  |

# PLAINTIFFS' REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURES TO DEFENDANT ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY

TO: DEFENDANT ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY, by and through its Attorney for Service, C T Corporation System, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Pursuant to Rule 194 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs request that the above-named Defendant, Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Company (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"), disclose, within fifty-one (51) days after the date of service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2.

Respectfully submitted,

### MOSTYN LAW

/s/ René M. Sigman
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### "EXHIBIT A-1"

# CAUSE NO. <u>C-2</u>047-17-F

| JESUS CEDILLO AND PATRICIA | § | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| CEDILLO,                   | § |                          |
| Plaintiffs,                | § |                          |
|                            | § |                          |
| <b>v.</b>                  | § | HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS    |
|                            | § |                          |
| ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND       | § |                          |
| PROPERTY INSURANCE         | § |                          |
| COMPANY, STEVEN YODER, AND | § |                          |
| JOSHUA ODEN,               | § |                          |
| Defendants.                | § | JUDICIAL DISTRICT        |

# PLAINTIFFS' REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURES TO DEFENDANT STEVEN YODER

TO: DEFENDANT STEVEN YODER, 22136 Westheimer Parkway, Apt. 309, Katy, Texas 77450.

Pursuant to Rule 194 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs request that the above-named Defendant, Steven Yoder (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"), disclose, within fifty-one (51) days after the date of service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2.

Respectfully submitted,

#### **MOSTYN LAW**

/s/ René M. Sigman
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### "EXHIBIT A-2"

## CAUSE NO. 2047-17-F

| JESUS CEDILLO AND PATRICIA | § | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| CEDILLO,                   | § |                          |
| Plaintiffs,                | § |                          |
|                            | § |                          |
| v.                         | § | HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS    |
|                            | § |                          |
| ALLSTATE VEHICLE AND       | § |                          |
| PROPERTY INSURANCE         | § |                          |
| COMPANY, STEVEN YODER, AND | § |                          |
| JOSHUA ODEN,               | § |                          |
| Defendants.                | Š | JUDICIAL DISTRICT        |
|                            | • |                          |

# PLAINTIFFS' REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURES TO DEFENDANT JOSHUA ODEN

TO: DEFENDANT JOSHUA ODEN, 9650 Scenic Hills Drive, Semmes, Alabama 36575.

Pursuant to Rule 194 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs request that the above-named Defendant, Joshua Oden (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"), disclose, within fifty-one (51) days after the date of service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2.

Respectfully submitted,

### MOSTYN LAW

/s/ René M. Sigman

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